

Straight Talk #39: Is the Ku Klux Klan Actually Masonic?

By William J. Schnobelen, © 2011

Is the KKK tied in any way to the Masons? This question is complicated by the fact that there are several different Klan organizations today, and that these organizations are highly secretive. However, a brief examination reveals that whatever the current association might be, in the past the Klan was "hatched" by the Scottish Rite.

Even today, there are strong resemblances. Both the KKK and the Masons are rooted in racism. That might surprise many, but in fact, **the Masonic Lodge practiced segregation right up to the 1980's**. There were no legally chartered African-American lodges in the US, and there were no African-Americans involved in American Grand Lodge Masonry.

To be certain, there was a "separate but highly UN-equal" branch of the Craft that admitted African Americans—Prince Hall Masonry. But Prince Hall Masonry never had the numbers, fancy temples or vast wealth of regular Grand Lodge Masonry. Plus, Prince Hall lodges were regarded as "clandestine" or illegally chartered; and a Mason could be kicked out simply for fellowshiping with a clandestine Mason. It would be a violation of his oath.

A man of African descent could not be a Mason in the US because he was not "free-born, of good report and well-recommended." The fact that most African-Americans were descended from slaves was used to keep them out. Recently, economic methods were used as well to keep Masonry lily-white

Another, more obvious similarity is that both organizations are highly secretive, use initiations, and employ high-sounding and bizarre titles such as "Grand Wizard," "Grand Dragon," or "Grand Sovereign Inspector General." Additionally, both use pseudo-Christian symbols (Rose-Crosses, Burning Crosses) to deceive the gullible.

Going back in history, to the beginning of the Klan, one finds even more solid evidence. The most celebrated Mason in 19th century America was **General Albert Pike (1809-1891)**. Indeed, few Masons in the world have had as many laurels heaped upon them as Pike.¹ He was the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite. He was also a former Confederate general, even though he was born in Boston.

Chief Justice of the Invisible Empire

Albert Pike was, in fact, the founder and chief strategist for the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in 1867 in Tennessee. He was, in fact, its "chief judicial officer."² Suddenly, the similarities between the Lodge and the KKK begin to make sense. Indeed, according to a highly respected Tennessee historian, Professor Walter L. Fleming, we find that:

"General Albert Pike, who stood high in the Masonic order, was the chief judicial officer of the Klan. General [Nathan Bedford] Forrest heard of the order after it began to spread, and... consented to become its wizard".³

On another page of the Fleming book were seven portraits of founders of the Klan. Pike's picture is in the center, and larger than any others.⁴ Fleming's credentials are exemplary. His 1905 history of the KKK is called "an authoritative account of that organization." Another source states

"Fleming covered the Civil War and Reconstruction more fully than any other man. His works are characterized by...scholarly objective. A Southerner, Fleming wrote of the sectional conflict with Southern sympathies, yet he was more objective than most Southerners of his generation. This historiography of the Civil War and Reconstruction owes much to his indefatigable research, his breadth of scholarship, and power of interpretation".⁵

In yet another history by Susan Lawrence Davis, Pike is described beneath an impressive oil portrait as "Chief Justice of the Invisible Empire, Father of Scottish Rite Masonry."⁶ In fact, that oil portrait was supplied by Pike's son to the author for her use. It goes on to reveal that:

General Pike organized the Ku Klux Klan in Arkansas after General Forrest appointed him Grand Dragon of the Realm at the convention at Nashville, Tenn. He was also appointed at that time Chief Judicial officer of the Invisible Empire.⁷

Southern Fried Terrorism?

How did this happen? We must recall that Pike was a Confederate general. He did not accept the loss of the Civil War. This was especially true because Pike was no ordinary soldier. He ordered such atrocities committed against Northerners that the Confederate Army ultimately stripped him of his rank.

Pike used Indians in his battles against Union troops. To make them cruel and bloodthirsty, he would get them drunk. In the battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, Union troops were scalped and their bodies horribly mutilated with tomahawks.⁸ Pike's troops were described as "...more merciless than wolves and more rapacious."⁹ That sounds to me like a slander on wolves! With this kind of background, it is no wonder that once the war was lost, Pike would conceive of a phantom, crypto-Masonic terrorist organization to fight a guerrilla war against Northern Reconstruction in the south.

Pike, who was, at this time the Scottish Rite's Grand Commander, made no secret of his feelings. He wrote an editorial in a local newspaper,¹⁰

"The miserable devils [African-Americans] perjure themselves just as readily as they lie... With negroes [sic] for witnesses and jurors the administration of justice becomes a blasphemous mockery. A Loyal League of negroes can cause any white man to be arrested, and can prove any charges it chooses to have made against him. The disenfranchised people of the South, robbed of all the guarantees of the Constitution...can find no protection for property, liberty or life, EXCEPT IN SECRET ASSOCIATION...we would unite every white man in the South, who is opposed to negro suffrage into the great Order of Southern Brotherhood, with an organization complete, active, vigorous, in which a few should execute the concentrated will of all, and whose very existence should be concealed from all but its members.[emphasis added]"

It is evident that the great "Order" which Pike used to "execute the concentrated will of all" was the **Ku Klux Klan**. Under Pike, the courts of the southern states were pretty much controlled by the Scottish Rite and the Klan. Thus, Pike dispensed lawlessness, arson, murder and suffering to an entire generation of blacks and pro-Union whites.¹¹ The KKK might be one of the first modern examples of what today is called terrorism.

Masonry is a ready-made revolutionary network into whose crucible all sorts of evil ideologies can be poured. In Sicily, Masonry was the matrix for the modern Mafia, with the help of Pike's colleague, Giuseppe Mazzini.¹² Similarly, in the post-war South, Masonry provided the network the Klan needed to get off and running.

Knights of the Golden Circle

Where did the Klan get its start and its name? There seems to have been a concerted effort on the part of Scottish Rite Freemasonry to undermine America, sabotage its relations with Mexico, and carry on the furtherance of the slave trade. America occupied Mexico in the Mexican War (1846-48), something that many patriots, including Abraham Lincoln, (then a congressman) saw as a criminal, aggressive act.

As this Mexican War drew a close, a General John Quitman was appointed military governor and dictator over Mexico City. The US was ready to seize all of northern Mexico, from California to Texas. Quitman (a Scottish Rite Mason) proposed to President Polk that all of Mexico be annexed and turned into **an area for slave plantations**. As a result of this, he was coronated¹³ a 33° Mason (Sovereign Grand Inspector General) of the Scottish rite.

To make a long story shorter, the ultimate goal of Quitman and the Scottish rite was to "liberate" Mexico and Cuba. A group called "The Knights of the Golden Circle" (started in Cincinnati by Scottish rite leader Killian Van Rensselaer) was set up to organize this new slave empire centered in Cuba. The "Golden Circle" actually referred to an actual circle radiating out from Havana, Cuba and extending into Mexico, Florida, and most of the southern United States—**the boundaries of this new, but secret empire**.

These "Knights" trained almost 100,000 men and were organized into lodges called "Castles." In the South, led by Quitman, these Knights formed the heart of the burgeoning military machine of the secessionists. Quitman died in July 1858, and Albert Pike was brought into the Supreme Council to replace him. In 1859, Pike became the Scottish rite's Grand Commander.

After the South lost, it was only natural that this concept of the Knights of the Golden Circle would evolve into something designed to fight against the Reconstructionists. Tennessee blacks were given the vote in 1867.

A couple of months later, Pike and group of Confederate generals met in Nashville to form the Ku Klux Klan.

The name was taken from the Greek KYKΛΟΣ (KUKLOS), meaning "Circle." Of course, the term "Klan" resonated for the many members of the southeast US, who were of Scots or Scots-Irish ancestry. This established the connection was established to the Knights of the Golden Circle. Also, occult operations in ceremonial magic must be done in a Circle. The Tennessee leaders of the Klan *were all outstanding Masons* under the leadership of "Supreme Grand Commander" and "Grand Dragon of the Realm" Pike. He even wrote a "hymn" for the Klan, "Death's Brigade", which is entirety. Here are the final stanzas:¹⁴

*Fly! Fly! Ye dastard bandits
 Who are bleeding all the land,
 The Dread Brigade is marching
 With viewless sword and brand;
 Nor think that from its vengeance
 You in deepest caves may hide,
 For through the darkest caverns
 The Dread Brigade will ride.*

*The misty gray is hanging
 on the tresses of the East
 And more shall tell the story
 Of the revel and the feast.
 The ghostly troop shall vanish
 Like the light in constant cloud
 But where they rode shall gather
 The coffin and the shroud.*

Leaders of African-American (Prince Hall) Masonry have even pulled off the sheets of deceit! An article in the official journal of Prince Hall Masonry¹⁵ by its editor, Joseph A. Walkes, printed the hymn in full!¹⁶ Walkes made no effort to conceal the awful truth from his readers, unlike the cowardly writings of the "white" Scottish rite leaders. We can clearly see that Pike was a genocidal racist, an occultist, a barbarian, and—last but not least—a mediocre poet.

A Crucible of Satanism?

Pike fused his interest in Satanism, Qabalism and Zoroastrianism with his interest in politics to create in the Klan a unique Masonic terrorist organization. As University of Denver Religious Studies Professor Carl Raschke observes,¹⁷

"Around the middle of the nineteenth century there rose to fame in France a renegade Catholic rector called Alphonse Constant, who changed his name to Eliphas Levi. Levi was considered the Michelangelo of the suppressed traditions of "black magic" in the Christian West...[Levi's] most notable apostle in America was one Albert Pike, a Confederate general from Arkansas and Robert E. Lee's chief of army intelligence... But Pike also has a less glorious and murkier credit to his name. Pike was one of the original architects of the Ku Klux Klan, which, contrary to common belief, was not at its inception primarily a racist club for semi-literates. The white robes, cross burning, conical hats, and use of such titles as "grand dragon" and "imperial wizard" derives from the strange lore developed by Levi. During the period of Reconstruction in the South right after the Civil War, the Klan was fundamentally a terrorist organization motivated by magic and mysticism, whose larger purpose was to drive out the Northern occupation army...

The amalgam of violence, secrecy, and fanaticism that went into the original constitution of the Klan became the basis for the rise of Satanism in the South over the past decade [the 1980's].

This is a very perceptive insight, and one which could only be borne of the huge amount of study and research that Raschke has done in the field of contemporary Satanic terrorism and violence. It is indeed tragically ironic that today, many of the victims of Satanic ritual abuse come from Masonic families.

Of course, both the Masons and the Klan have evolved since the 1890's. Whether or not there is still the solid, aboveground link between the two organizations is not as easy to determine. Today, both the Klansmen and the Masons attempt to appear Christians. Indeed, there are certainly many Christians in each body.

However, the brand of "Christianity" found in the Lodge is a kind of universalistic, New Age brand of Gnosticism; and many members of the Klan subscribe to the "Christian Identity" movement—a strange mutation off the old Anglo-Israel sect which believes that Anglo-Saxons are the chosen people, and that the throne of David is actually the throne of the British monarchy. They believe THEY are the true Jews and that the Jewish people are actually children of the devil, along with African-American people.

The bottom line is that both organizations are racist, occult, secret societies which sprang from the same depraved mind—a mind which denied the resurrection and deity of Yah'shua, (the Hebrew name for Jesus), and which declared the Judeo-Christian Deity to be false. That alone should make any Christian flee from them.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the author through:

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¹ David McKay and Co., New York, n.d., p.29

² William Schnoebelen, MASONRY BEYOND THE LIGHT, Chick Publications, Chino, CA, 1991, p.190-91.

³ W. Lee Ackridge, THE PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE KKK.

⁴ J.C. Lester, D.L. Wilson, Dr. Walter L. Fleming, KU KLUX KLAN: IT'S ORIGIN, GROWTH AND DISBANDMENT, Neale Publishing Co., New York, 1905, p.27.

⁵ DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY.

⁶ Susan Lawrence Davis, AUTHENTIC HISTORY: KU KLUX KLAN, American Library Service, 1924, New York, pp.271-277.

⁷ Ibid., facing p. 19.

⁸ Daily Republican, Davenport, Iowa 4/5/1898.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ The Memphis Daily Appeal, Memphis, TN, 4/16/1868.

¹¹ Anton Chaitkin, "How Ku Klux Klan Managed to Get a U.S. National Monument," NEW FEDERALIST, 10/19/92, p.4.

¹² Schnoebelen, op.cit., p. 192.

¹³ Coronated is a specialized term used for making someone a 33rd degree Mason.

¹⁴ Chaikin, "The Scottish Rite's Ku Klux Klan Project" NEW FEDERALIST special supplement, 4/93, pp.10-11

¹⁵ Joseph A. Walkes, NEW S QUARTERLY OF PRINCE HALL SCOTTISH RITE MASONRY, Spring 1992, Washington, DC.

¹⁶ Ibid., p.23.

¹⁷ Carl A. Raschke, PAINTED BLACK, 1990, Harper Paperbacks, New York, pp.61-62.